



COMMODITY SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD PROGRAM (CSFP)

Mission of CSFP

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) works to improve the health of low-income pregnant and breastfeeding women, other new mothers up to one year postpartum, infants, children up to age six, and elderly people at least 60 years of age, by supplementing their diets with nutritious USDA commodity foods.

Fast Facts:

In 2009, twelve counties provided 3,666 people with CSFP food boxes each month.

With the expansion of the program to 21 counties In 2010, CSFP expects to provide food to 5,098 clients each month.

Over 90% of the monthly participating clients are elderly.

Comments From Around the State:

CSFP food is an irreplaceable resource. It is the nutritional cornerstone for our homebound seniors which represent 80% of our CSFP clients.

Volunteers of America,Everett

Seniors represent 95% of our CSFP clientele. CSFP food is a key nutritional source that would be hard to replace. – Coastal CAP, Aberdeen

Funding for CSFP

Federal funds: Federal Fiscal Year 2010: \$295,743 to pay for the administration of the program and are expected to be maintained through Fiscal Year 2011. CSFP is mostly about providing nutritious food. Annually, this program receives over \$1.4 million worth of USDA food, which means that an additional 1.6 million pounds of nutritional food is made available for the state's most vulnerable lowincome people.

Program activities

Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) manages The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), receiving food and operational funding from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for distribution to 10 CSFP lead agencies throughout the state.

While CSFP provides a steady stream of nutritious food, the program is not offered in all states nor is it available statewide due to federal funding limits. WSDA leverages the current TEFAP distribution system for the distribution of CSFP via food banks and other food assistance providers.

Who can receive CSFP food assistance?

CSFP provides food "packages" designated for low-income mothers, infants, and children (not on WIC); and for the elderly at least 60 years of age. Elderly clients must not have monthly incomes more than 130% of the federal poverty level. Other participants (women, infants, and children) must be at or below 185% of the federal poverty level.

Food served focuses on healthy nutrition

The food packages provide clients with 27 pounds of critically needed food each month. Participants receive "real" food and not food "vouchers." The focus is on nutritional supplementation and provides a variety of fruits, vegetables, healthy juices, dairy, potatoes, cereal, rice, and tuna.

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How are agencies chosen to distribute CSFP?

Agencies participating in CSFP are chosen by the TEFAP/CSFP advisory committee. As the program expands to new areas, the advisory committee discusses where the program will be most effective.

Program expands to new counties

In January 2010, an expansion request of 1,432 new caseload slots was granted, allowing the program to meet current wait lists. Also, lead agencies in Colville, Moses Lake, Okanogan and White Salmon are now able to distribute CSFP food to nine new counties in rural Eastern Washington for a total of 21 counties.